REMARKS

Claims 1-20 remain in this application. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

The specification is amended above as the Examiner suggests in section 2 on page 2 of the Office Action.

The informalities referred to by the Examiner in sections 3 and 5 on pages 2-3 of the Office Action are eliminated above.

Prior art is not applied against any of claims 4, 5, and 9-20. Each of claims 4 and 9-11 is rewritten above in independent form and so as to include the limitations of any intervening claims and should now be allowable. Dependent claims 5 and 12-20 should be allowable as well.

Independent claims 1 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,831,689 to Yadid-Pecht. Reconsideration is requested. The Yadid-Pecht patent relates to an optical imager in which different exposure times, such as a short exposure time and a longer exposure time, are provided. The digital camera defined by claim 1, however, includes a control device which delays sampling for a first sample value by a predetermined delay time after reset, while the CMOS image sensor control method defined by claim 7 similarly includes a recitation that a first sampled value is obtained with usable image information after a predetermined delay time after reset. These features are neither explicitly disclosed nor suggested by the Yadid-Pecht patent, and the rejection of claims 1 and 7 as anticipated by the Yadid-Pecht patent should be withdrawn.

U.S. Patent 6,115,066 to Gowda et al. is relied on as a secondary reference to reject claims 3, 6, and 8. The Gowda et al. patent disclosure, however, fails to suggest modifying the Yadid-Pecht imager so as to meet the limitations discussed above, In the Gowda et al. image sensor, direct digital correlated double sampling is utilized. After reset, a reading step is carried out in order to provide for a reference, and a further reading step is then carried out after a certain exposure time. The Yadid-Pecht and Gowda disclosures, taken as a whole, would result in imager operation in which three reading steps are carried out, e.g. a first reading step after reset in order to determine a reference value, a second step after a short exposure time, and a third reading step after a longer exposure time for small amounts of light. The present invention as defined by claims 1 and 7, by contrast, refrains from reading the sensor directly after reset, thus reading the sensor only twice. The other documents relied on as secondary references by the Examiner also do not suggest modifying the Yadid-Pecht imager so as to meet the limitations discussed.

Claims 1 and 7 as they presently appear in the application are patentable for reasons discussed above. Claims 2, 3, 6, and 8 depend on claim 1 and are also considered patentable. All of the claims in this application, therefore, should now be patentable.

This application should now be in allowable condition. If there are any questions regarding this Reply or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an extension of time sufficient to effect a timely response. Please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #037276.50924).

Respectfully submitted,

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Richard R. Diefendorf
Registration No. 32,390

CROWELL & MORING LLP
Intellectual Property Group
P.O. Box 14300
Washington, DC 20044-4300
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844
RRD:rd